Dear Senate Energy Committee,

I'm the founder of SolarYpsi (solarypsi.org), a small group of volunteers that has been educating, designing, and installing solar power in the City of Ypsilanti. **I write to you today in support of net-metering.** While solar power is a viable technology, the current payback period for a typical installation is about seven years. This is a positive ROI, return on investment, since the components in a solar installation will last thirty years or longer and are typically warrantied for twenty-five years. If net-meter is not one-for-one for power exported to the grid this payback period will be longer, lower the demand for solar power.

I currently work in computer technology field and see today's solar panels at the same technology state that computer were back in the 1980. They were few and expensive, but they were valuable to people who knew how to use them. As more people/companies purchased computers, the volume went up and the prices came down. This has continued for the past 40 years and today I can buy a cell phone for $200 that is 50 times more powerful as those old computers that could fill a room. The same is happening today with solar panels. We are at the beginning of the technology curve and the performance will only get better and the prices will only come down. **We need to support net-metering to drive up the demand for solar panels which will drive down the prices in the long run.**

One of the arguments against net-metering is that people with solar power are "using" the electrical grid for free. This is only partially true. When a "solar" electron enters the home, it's looking for the closest place to go to ground. This is typically through one of the lights or appliances in your home. If the electron enters the home and has no place to go, it will travel backwards through your utility meter and head for your neighbor's house. For a home of business that has multiple connections to the grid, that extra electron will not traverse the utility grid, but bounce off the transformer and back into the home. These solar electrons are traveling a very short distance looking for the closest ground. Solar power is not adding any addition stress to the grid and is fact is making the utility grid more reliable by reducing peak loads on power plants.

Solar power is the same as turning things off in your house. If you looked at two homes side-by-side and one added 1000 watts of solar panels and the other turn off 1000 watts of lights in the home, the grid could not tell to two apart. Solar power is off-setting the electrical load in your home, not dumping megawatts of power into the grid. If we punish solar power generators by removing net-metering, we should also punish people who reduce their electrical load by turn off lights.

One of the over looked benefits of roof top solar power is the absence of transmission losses. When power is produced at a centralized location like a coal fired plant, you will lose approximately 5% of that power transmitting it to your home. (http://www.eia.gov/tools/faqs/faq.cfm?id=105&t=3) Roof top solar power will produce 5% "free" power.

Please support solar power by keeping net-metering in place.

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